

John S. Seeds House I
801 Lexington Avenue
First Ward Neighborhood
Altoona
Blair County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5812

HABS
PA,
7-ALTO
32-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

JOHN S. SEEDS HOUSE I

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Location: 801 Lexington Avenue

Date of Erection: 1907

Description: Located at an intersection, this fanciful Queen Anne-style house has a distinctive corner tower with a bell-shaped roof. The wood-framed building, measuring approximately 27'-6" x 38', is veneered with brick, but some walls are covered with wood in decorative patterns. The hipped roof has prominent cross gables. The one-story porch wraps around to the side of the house in a curve. There are oriels at the second story. The first story has leaded, beveled, and stained-glass windows.

History: John S. Seeds, a real estate, insurance, and steamship agent, built his house in 1907. Seeds had previously owned and occupied the house at 812 Lexington Ave. The 1907 tax book noted that the house at No. 801 was "not finished"; the following year the house was finished and the assessed value rose from \$700 to \$4,100. In 1917 Seeds sold the house for \$11,000. In 1918 it was bought to serve as the permanent residence for the district superintendent of the Altoona District of the Central Pennsylvania Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. (See John S. Seeds House II, 204 Coleridge Ave., Llyswen)

Sources: Maps: 1894, 1909. City directories. Tax assessment records. Deed books: 171/106, 249/586, 290/4, 475/116.

Project Information: This report was part of a larger project to document the city of Altoona, Pennsylvania. The project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), Robert Kapsch, chief, at the request of America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP), Randy Cooley, director. An overview of the history of the city (HABS No. PA-5784) and an overview of the first ward neighborhood (HABS No. PA-5788) provide context for these buildings as well as a comprehensive list of sources. See also additional HABS reports on buildings in the city and other neighborhoods.

This report was prepared by HABS Senior Historian Alison K. Hoagland, project leader and editor, in the summer of 1989. Hoagland's and other project historians' work was published as Railroad City: Four Historic Neighborhoods in Altoona, Pennsylvania (Washington, D.C.: HABS/HAER, National Park Service, 1990), edited by Kim E. Wallace, supervisory historian, and Sara Amy Leach, HABS historian.